

Otter Island Management Plan

Restoration Plan Database: Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

I. BASIC PLAN DATA

Plan name:

Otter Island Management Plan

Brief description of plan:

Recognized for its ecological and historical significance, Otter Island was purchased by the state of South Carolina in 1993 for inclusion in the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve . Designated a state Heritage Preserve, Otter Island is managed for the benefit of wildlife while allowing citizen access to the island for traditional uses. The Otter Island management plan strives to balance these somewhat conflicting objectives. Otter Island's significance as a rich wildlife area is due in large part to its location. There are developed islands to the north (Edisto Island) and to the south (Harbor, Fripp, and Hunting Islands). Thus, for a long stretch of coastline, Otter Island is the only location where wildlife species can rest, feed and reproduce without the pressures of development. Otter Island includes sand beach, undisturbed dune fields, shrub thickets, maritime forest, freshwater and brackish wetlands, and open salt marsh. It consists of four-hundred and fifty-two (452) acres of high land, four (4) acres of interior wetlands, fifty-eight (58) acres of beach, one-thousand, four-hundred and eighty-nine (1489) acres of marsh, and eighty-six (86) acres of subtidal estuarine creeks, for a total of two-thousand, eighty-eight (2088) acres. Otter Island is bounded on the east by Fish Creek and Pine Island, on the north by Jefford's Creek, on the west by the Ashepoo River, and on the south by St. Helena Sound.

Region the plan is located within:

South-Atlantic Region

Watershed(s) included within the plan:

S100x

Area plan covers (in square miles):

square miles

Plan scale:

County

Plan's lead organization(s):

NOAA, ACE Basin NERR, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Plan's Main Contact Information:

Buddy Sullivan
ACE Basin NERR Reserve Manager

On-line version of plan:

Date of original plan:

No Information Provided

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plan includes restoration goals: Y

Level of detail of the goals:

G

Summary of the goals:

The protection and management of the resources that occur on Otter Island are intended to support the overall research mission of the ACE Basin NERR and the Heritage Trust program. All aspects of the preserve management will contribute to the protection effort, and any other use of the area must be compatible with these goals. The Heritage Trust Act requires that Heritage Preserves are available for use by the public. Management of these preserves must, therefore, recognize the diverse uses of the acquired properties while striving to maintain species diversity. These uses, however, must be compatible with the primary goal of wildlife protection. The purpose of this management plan is to preserve the unique and valuable resources on Otter Island. Protecting and managing the island for wildlife will be the primary goal of the management plan. In order of importance after this goal are the following objectives; 1) conduct proactive management to ensure and enhance the survival of resident and migrant species of wildlife that inhabit the island; 2) provide opportunities for research; 3) provide opportunities for marine and coastal education as part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve program (NERR); and 4) provide wildlife-related recreation within the context of the primary goal of this plan. This plan, therefore, contains the same elements as the nationwide Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative, i.e., conservation, education and recreation, while still maintaining the integrity of the island's resources.

Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:

Y

Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:

N

Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:

Y

Partners included in developing the plan:

Federal
State
Local
Non-profit Organizations
Academia
Foundations
Private landowners

Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:

Information not available

Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):

Y

Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:

N

Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:

N

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:

G

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:

G

The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:

Y

Other plan names:

ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan

Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):

Y

Summary of this habitat information:

Otter Island's near pristine condition is due to the care of previous owners. Mr. Clifton Stevens allowed sea turtle management activities for several seasons, and the family posted the island against trespass. His daughter, Susan Eren, recognized the beauty and value of the island. To insure its future protection she agreed to have The Nature Conservancy purchase the island. The Department of Natural Resources then purchased the property using Coastal Wetlands grant monies through the U.S. Department of the Interior and state funds through the Heritage Land Trust Fund. The island was then designated a Heritage Trust Preserve.